



THE MESSENGER

NOVEMBER 15, 2020

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
TBA

Weekly Bible Studies
All temporarily being conducted via Zoom. Check our “friends” page on Facebook for more information.

Times of Service
Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a short worship service)

First Friday of Month
Singing
7:30 PM

Address and Contact

University Heights Church of Christ
445 Columbia Ave., Lexington,
KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

TO GROAN OR NOT TO GROAN?

In 2 Corinthians 5:1-2 Paul says, “*For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling.*”

For Paul the destroying, or dissolving, of the earthly tent of his flesh was a distinct and present possibility throughout much of his life as an apostle. Persecution and threats of death were not uncommon. (2 Corinthians 1:8-9; 4:7-10; 6:4-10; 11:23-27) Paul, the tentmaker, employs the imagery of a tent partly to remind us of how quickly the tent that is the human body can be dissolved, taken down, removed, *destroyed*.

But Paul wants us to know that death does not get the last word. Eventually death caught up to Paul but all it could do was usher him into the next life and the beginning of his reward. (Luke 16:22) There was a crown of righteousness waiting for Paul and if the Lord was not going to return before Paul’s death than it was going to *require* his death to receive it. (2 Timothy 4:6-8) To Paul, death served as a doorway to something far greater. Rather than fearing it, he *embraced* it. It was the expectation of his eternal reward that caused him to groan while in the flesh, longing to put on his heavenly dwelling.

Yet the words of 2 Corinthians 5:1-2 came from a man who lived a very difficult life. They came from a man who faced significant challenges and persecutions regularly. Clearly there wasn’t much in this world to seduce Paul and draw his attention away from Christ and his own ministry.

But we’re not in the same situation, are we? We come home from work and sit down in an easy chair to relax. We watch television, pleasure read a novel, or play with our phones until dinner is on the table. Maybe we take the family and go out to a restaurant. We may stop on the way home to some ice cream or frozen yogurt. We go to movies and ballgames, take family

Members Needing Our Prayers

Janet Brundige, Jackie Litmer, John Thompson, Mary and Emmett Weatherholt, Alexa and Charlie Lake, Bennie Poynter, Joyce Bolton, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson, Whitney Crouch, Rhonda Boyd (and family)

Others Needing Prayers

Grace Meyer, Andy Seabolt, Sarah and Jake Chandler, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Rachel Knollman, Michael Hogan, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Jen Victoria Poynter, Andy Kincaid, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Cindi's niece, Dana, and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Mark (Carol's son), Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

Interested in a Bible study? Either let one of us know or mark it on your visitor card.

Type in our name on Facebook, YouTube, or our website if you'd like to watch or just listen to our sermons.

vacations, hang out with friends, listen to our music, mess around on social media, play games, and then climb in our comfortable beds for the night.

Am I saying any of this is necessarily wrong? Of course not. It *does*, however, make life awfully comfortable. It may cause a person to ask what more they really need? It might even swing a person's allegiance from Christ to the comforts of the world (1 John 2:15-17).

It begs the question: how much groaning is actually taking place in our lives? How often do we find ourselves contemplating the future reward of the faithful so deeply that words fail us to be replaced by "groanings too deep for words"? Truth is, no Christian will groan for a heavenly dwelling if they have become thoroughly content with their earthly one. If we treasure most the world as it stands, we're going to struggle getting our heart's to long for something greater. (Matthew 6:19-21).

What do we do? We remember that we're on our pilgrimage. (1 Peter 2:11) We make the best use of our time (Ephesians 5:16), which certainly does not forbid enjoying this world, but *does* urge us to embrace the truly good things in life, always walking in a manner worthy of our calling. (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:1) In this day of our sojourn, let's aim for our true home. We'll be eternally grateful we did. Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

